

"On a Woman's Spat May Hang the Fate of a Nation."

ON a woman's spat may hang the fate of a nation. Just because Mrs. Claus Spreckels, Sr., the wife of the great Sugar King, overheard Mrs. Claus Spreckels, Jr., call her "that old woman," Hawaii may never be annexed to the United States of America. It is a most remarkable story.

The daughter-in-law was at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York. The mother-in-law, visiting this city, called at the hotel.

She followed her card to the apartments

of one child was the pleasure of the other children. The pain of one was the distress of the others. Marriage of the children seemed to add to the domestic felicity. John D. Spreckels, the oldest son, established a home place near the dwelling of his parents. The third son, named for his father, Claus, with the name August or Augustus added, wedded a lady noted for her beauty and her charm, a lady so endowed and with such ambitions as to make her a favorite and a leader in the class of people indefinitely called "society." The parents of the young

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according to common report "on 'Change' these young men have made a net profit of about \$2,000,000 from the property that their father gave them and then tried to wrest from them. A new division has come in the family of Spreckels, but this has not soothed the older feud. This later summering of ties was due to the making of a new tie. Miss Emma Spreckels, only daughter of the sugar king, chose to wed the man of her choice, Thomas Watson, an Englishman, a broker without wealth, and a man much older than his bride. The parents opposed

In the years past, when Claus Spreckels owned the sugar plantations in Hawaii, when no sugar beet were grown in California to yield their sweet product to the crude carasses of giant crushers, when no trust controlled the price of every pound of sugar sold in the West, this same Claus Spreckels was the eminent proponent of reciprocity with Hawaii. For many years he led public opinion to declare that a reciprocal convention with the islands of the Pacific brings a benefit to this country. Now Claus Spreckels, Jr., in the Sugar Trust, he is working in association with

MRS. CLAUD SPRECKELS SR.



because of this overheard remark and the sharp reply. Of course, there was a misunderstanding about the words—a misunderstanding that might readily have been explained, but no road was open for explanation. Claus Spreckels was a hearty, loving father. But Claus Spreckels is also a stern, vigorous hater. His character has descended to his sons. No apologies were made; no apologies were expected. Husbands ranked with their wives. Spreckels stood against Spreckels. The warfare was bitter. The family was broken asunder.

C. Augustus Spreckels left the Philadelphia refinery. His management of the business was censured by his father and by his elder brothers. The feud took definite form. On one side ranged the venerable parents, the sons John D. and Adolph, and the daughter. On the other side stood C. Augustus Spreckels, and with him was the youngest of the family, Rudolph, the child that came to the old age of the California sugar king and his wife.

Old Claus Spreckels showed that he is a fierce and unrelenting foe, even though his opponents are his own sons. His attack began on the property of his younger sons. Spreckels warfare has to do with money, or that for which money stands. Dollars are all-powerful, you know, in business. The property under the control of C. Augustus Spreckels and Rudolph Spreckels had come to them from their father. The father tried to get it back. The greater part of this property was in the Hawaiian Islands. For years the great plantations of Spreckels had yielded vast cargoes of sugar, imported to America on Spreckels vessels and refined in Spreckels refineries. Claus Spreckels had been the dominant force in Hawaiian affairs. He had named cabinets to advise that kindly and merry monarch, David Kalakaua. He had received from royalty a token in form of a title and a decoration. He was Sir

If Frederick the Great had not spoken slightly of La Pompadour the Seven Years' War might not have occurred, and France might still hold Canada.

If Mary Queen of Scots had not cast the poison of her sharp tongue at Elizabeth, the destiny of Great Britain might have been changed.

If several Cabinet ladies of President Jackson's Administration had not refused to receive Mrs. Eaton the Cabinet would not have been disrupted and the dominant party would not have been divided.

If Mrs. Blaine had not snubbed Mrs. Harrison, James G. Blaine might have been President of the United States.

Just so, if Mrs. Claus Spreckels had not refused Mrs. C. Augustus Spreckels call her "that old woman," Hawaii might ere now be annexed to the United States.

Petty squabbles between a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law may keep from the jewel islands of the equator the glory of the Stars and Stripes, and may place over Government House at Honolulu the crimson globe of the Mikado.

Claus Spreckels, Commander of the Order of Kamehameha, or Knight of the Star of Oceania, or something of that imposing sort. It is true that Sir Claus and royalty did not retain their cordial relations and that Sir Claus sent back his order and dropped the Sir, but when he dropped the title he did not drop the property.

This property, vast acres on which cane grew, was the source of supply of Spreckels sugar before the beet sugar industry was developed in California. The Spreckels company that owned it was known as the Hawaiian Sugar and Commercial Company. Claus Spreckels had given the greater part of the stock of this company to his sons, C. Augustus and Rudolph. When they split away from their father, or their father split away from them, these sons devoted themselves to the care of this property.

Claus Spreckels, at war with these sons,

was not minded to rest at ease, when they were growing sugar on the lands that he had given them. A cargo of sugar consigned to the Hawaiian Sugar and Commercial Company was a bitter root to the man who had organized the corporation. He fled to law, seeking to recover the property he had bestowed. Only a few months ago the Supreme Court of California handed down its opinion in the suit brought by the father against the son Rudolph. Such a suit never was before, and such a suit may never be again. The father contended that this stock in the corporation was jointly owned by himself and wife, having been acquired during the existence of the conjugal community. Therefore, he pleaded, he, the husband, had no right to give away the stock, unless his wife joined in the gift. As Mrs. Claus Spreckels had not joined in the gift Claus Spreckels prayed the Court to return this valuable stock to himself and his wife. The Court based this technicality over the moon. In an elaborate opinion, Judge Temple, the great jurist of the West, laid down for the benefit of Claus Spreckels and all others who may read, the law governing control of community property. The husband, says the opinion, has entire control of the property of the community and may hoard it or squander it as he chooses. The interest of the wife is as the Justice defined it, "a mere expectancy."

All along the line of battle in the courts Claus Spreckels was defeated and his sons were successful. The litigation was bitterly fought. One phase of the court war was a suit for damages for libel, the libel consisting of information given to a newspaper man and printed in one of the papers of San Francisco.

The result of all the proceedings in the courts is that the sons hold the stock. Ac-

MRS. CLAUD SPRECKELS JR.



ORDER OF RESTRAINT

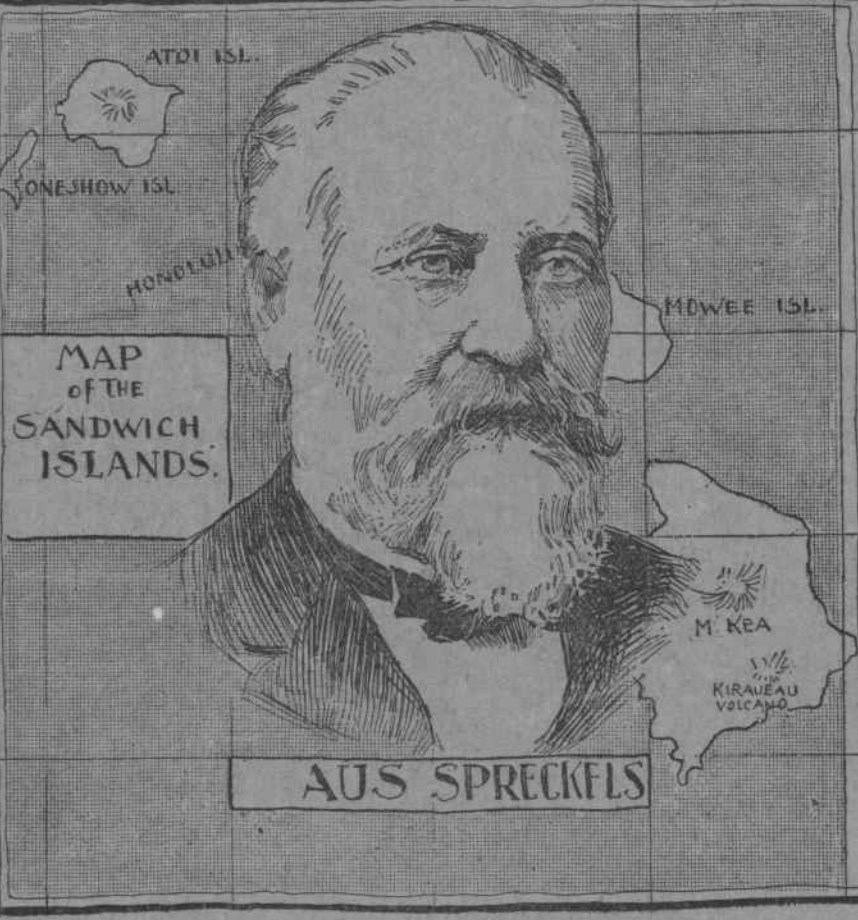


JOHN D.

DECISION INJUNCTION COURT



ADOLPH



AUS SPRECKELS

of the younger lady, and at the door of the little corridor overheard the remark that provoked a family feud, that has never yet been settled, and probably never will be.

This family feud is operating to influence the policy of the Government of the United States in a great international negotiation.

Incredible as this assertion may seem, no more remarkable is the fact that it relates than the fact that a feud should occur at all in the family of Spreckels. For a score years or more the harmony of all the parts of this domestic circle was one of its distinct. The commodious and comfortable home of the old sugar king was the gathering place of all the members of the family, and, indeed, this family was deemed an exemplar of peaceful and united domesticity.

When Claus Spreckels was brewing beer at the Mission in San Francisco and his children were learning English as she spoke at the public schools a happy and contented group of little people gathered daily about the dining table with their proud and affectionate parents and gossiped over the trifling events of the day. When riches came to Claus Spreckels, when he left the vats and the hops of the brewery to devote himself to the larger enterprises of buying, refining and selling sugar, the domestic circle was unchanged. The strong "home feeling," as it is called by the German peasant class, never had fuller expression than in this family of Claus Spreckels.

Old friends of the Spreckels people, the same friends who now tell with sorrow of the separation, relate that the head of the house, old Claus Spreckels, had but one ambition in the accumulation of property, and that ambition was the benefit of all who bore his name. In this hard-headed man of business are streaks of sentiment and romance that are not discovered to men who see him only in his office, or even to those who are his companions during his afternoons of leisure at the Pacific Union Club in San Francisco. He may not know the motto of the guardians of Dumas, but he lived it—"One for all, and all for one." He purposed to make all his investments for the general interest of his children, as well as of his wife and himself. He wanted his sons and his daughter to have this same communal spirit with himself. His aspiration was to maintain the unity of the Spreckels property in the same way that he hoped and expected to maintain the unity of the Spreckels family.

I do not know that he thought or cared about great social position or high political power for his children. His manner of life suggests that his hopes and ambitions for his boys and his girl were directed to great commercial force that they would. And all would attend to business. Spreckels believes in business. The children grew to maturity the father was fulfilled. The hap-

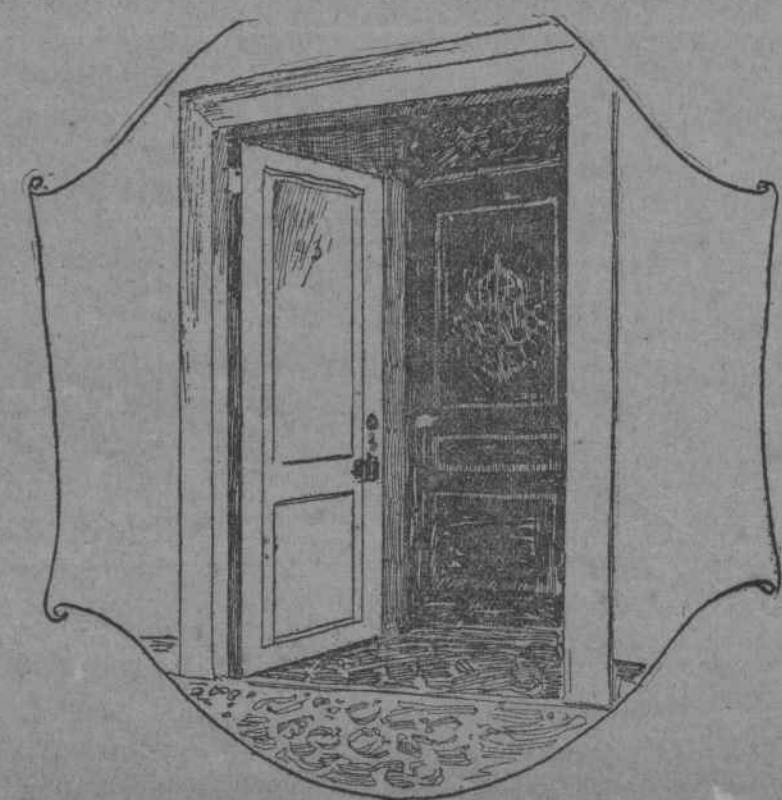
husband were proud of his lovely bride, and gave her warm welcome to a place at their fireside.

The happy harmony was maintained. The ambitions of the father seemed likely to come to a reality. Already the division of the work of management of the great properties had been made. John D. Spreckels was in command of the fleet, directing the shipping interests. Adolph Spreckels, the second son, took charge of another part of the business. C. Augustus Spreckels came eastward to manage the refineries in Philadelphia, which his father had started in opposition to the Sugar Trust. Oh, Claus Spreckels was not always in the Trust. He gave it the hottest fight it ever had and he obtained about what he wanted before he became a part of the great combination that fixes the prices of sugar and directs the making of tariffs.

Here in the East happened the unfortunate event that disturbed the harmony of the Spreckels family. With the facts of a woman's quarrel the public has no concern, and I am not the one to lift the curtain merely that the curious and the vulgar may spy at the private affairs of those who occupy the seats of the mighty rich. But the members of the Spreckels family themselves have given abundant exhibition of the fierce rancor within their once harmonious company in the litigation that followed closely upon the rupture of friendly relations. If a woman's quarrel sways a great international negotiation, the public may be pardoned for peering behind the works to see the power that moves the pendulum.

If Mrs. Claus Spreckels the elder, having crossed the continent for a trip, had called upon Mrs. C. Augustus Spreckels, and, in her haste to see her beautiful daughter-in-law, had followed a summons to the boudoir without awaiting a summons to advance; and if the elder lady, standing at the door, had overheard the younger lady say something pettish, a bitter reply might be expected, but the overheard remark and the sharp reply could hardly be expected to turn the fate of a nation. Yet the fate of a nation is trembling

The tiny corridor where Mrs. Claus Spreckels, Sr., overheard Mrs. Claus Spreckels, Jr., call her "that old woman."



Which may forever prevent the jewel islands of the Pacific from belonging to the Stars and Stripes.

the marriage of their daughter, and the elder sons again stood by the parents. When Miss Spreckels became Mrs. Watson, none of her family being present at the wedding, she knew she was separating herself from parents and brothers. Having ranged herself with her parents in the first feud, she had no communication with her brothers, C. Augustus and Rudolph. Breaking from her parents by her clandestine marriage, she broke also from her brothers, John D. and Adolph. Between Mrs. Watson and her father there will be no scramble for property. Immediately after her marriage Mrs. Watson transferred to her father bonds and other evidences of value that she had received from him, worth about a million and a half dollars, keeping only the Emma Spreckels building, a fine structure on Market street, the rentals of which are sufficient to maintain a family and give a little over for theatre tickets.

Having applied in vain to the courts of his country for ammunition and ordinance wherewith to quell these ambitious sons, from whose place in commerce he seeks to oust them, one might expect the parent, once foud, to desist from his attack. Any one with such expectations little knows the fire under the white locks of Claus Spreckels. The courts may deny him that which he asks, but the judiciary is not the only branch of the Government. Congress, still sits and the executive department performs its functions at Washington.

Certain public matters of grave importance to Hawaii, to the United States and to the Spreckels family have been under consideration at Washington during the past few months. Possibly there may be connection between the interests of the two countries and the interests of the Spreckels family. A bit of inquiry is advisable, considering the importance of the matters at issue.

An attempt was made in Congress virtually to abrogate the treaty of reciprocity with Hawaii by provisions in the tariff bill relating to the import duty on sugar.

Los Oxnards, who owned large sugar beet refineries in Nebraska. The tale of the merchants is that Claus Spreckels receives tribute from every pound of sugar sold west of "Missouri River points," to quote the slang of the "almond freight agents." The Sugar Trust left Claus Spreckels, save earnest support to the schedule that, it passed, would abrogate the reciprocal relation between the two countries.

The youngest son of Claus Spreckels, these young men who inherited fighting qualities from their father, were interested in the maintenance of the reciprocal trade relations with Hawaii.

Well, the feud of Spreckels, Sr., versus Spreckels Brothers, Jr., may not have been noted in the debates in Congress, but the Sugar Trust failed to carry the project to abrogate the treaty by a schedule in a tariff bill.

Then the President of the United States sent a message to Congress submitting a treaty for the annexation of Hawaii to the United States. From Washington comes the word that the strongest opposition to the ratification of this treaty comes from the influence of the Sugar Trust and Claus Spreckels. C. Augustus Spreckels, when he was in Washington last week, learned of the animus behind the opposition. C. Augustus and Rudolph Spreckels naturally favor the approval of the treaty.

Now the young men have their father in a fine mesh net of type-Claus Spreckels has fastened himself in print. In 1891 he wrote for the North American Review upon "the wise and far-seeing policy embodied in the Hawaiian treaty." So late as 1893 he wrote for the daily press a declaration that the destiny of Hawaii is annexation to the United States.

In 1897 Claus Spreckels favors abrogation of the "wise and far-seeing policy embodied in the Hawaiian treaty," and sees that the destiny of Hawaii is not annexation to the United States.

And the man looking on reasons from the quarrel of the ladies to the feud of the men, from the feud of the men to the litigation of Claus Spreckels against his sons, from Claus Spreckels to the Sugar Trust, from the Sugar Trust to Congress.

The seven years' war, the quarrel between Elizabeth and Mary, the dispute among President Jackson's "Cabinet ladies," the snubbing of Mrs. Harrison by Mrs. Blaine, the neglect of Mrs. Huntington by Mrs. Stanford are all on the same grave lines.

Swift wrote, "Now I see from what small causes come great results." Mrs. Claus Spreckels and Mrs. C. Augustus Spreckels are the new history makers.

Pending is the fate of a nation.

O. W. K.